NRHP 11-17-69 NHL 11-11-71

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMAR

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(abridged from HABS Data)

The James Monroe Tomb is a rectangular (approx 13'x 9') cast iron "cage" which corners the simple granite sarcophagua of James Monroe. It is executed in the flamboyant Gothic Revival Style. A lancet-arched screen of the Cathedral window type is used on all four facades with two flanking subordinate lancet arches included on the two long fronts. The central arch uses a form of rose window tracery at the top with three round arched openings below. The screen motif is flanked by colonettes at the corners which support small tabernacles rising above the facades. The "roof" is an open tracery ogival curve canopy. The tomb is placed on a bluff overlooking the James River. A low stone wall, which rises in places no more than two-feet, incircles a circle around the tomb. The planting is limited to grass.

PERIOD (Check One	or More as	Appropriate)			i i		
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TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Designing tombs and monuments for the powerful and famous has produced some of the worlds most outstanding architecture and has been a challenge to the worlds most outstanding architects. The list runs from the grandeur of the Pyramides and the Taj Mahal to the more modest Wainwright tomb by Louis Sullivan. In the study of 19th-century American architecture the James Monroe Tomb in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia occupies an important place not because of its style which is Gothic Revival and not because of its architect, Albert Lybrock but because of its material. The James Monroe tomb is made of cast iron, cast by the firm of Wood and Perot in Philadelphia and erected in 1859. The delicate and flamboyant open Gothic tracery of the design was possible to achieve in cast iron in an outdoors tomb, in a manner not possible at this scale in stone. Though the James Monroe Tomb is a small scale masterpiece of cast iron architecture it did not leave the far reaching structural or stylistic influence of other cast iron achievements such as the dome of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

HISTORY (Abridged from HABS Data)

James Monroe, fifth President of the United States, died in New York City on July 4, 1831, and was buried in the New York City Marble Cemetery. In 1856 plans were proposed to erect a monument in memory of the late President in New York. At this time, Governor Henry A. Wise received a letter from the Governor of New York inquiring if Virginia, birthplace of Monroe, wished to have the body reinterred in the state. Two thousand dollars was voted by the Virginia State Legislature, and the body of Monroe was returned on the steamship "Jamestown", on loan from the Virginia Steamship Company, accompanied by the Seventh Regiment from New York. Impressive ceremonies were held in Richmond, highlighted by speeches from the Governors of New York and Virginia calling for national unity. The records of Hollywood Cemetery were burned in 1865, and as a result there are no specific records of Monroe's burial place and the monument.

Fofm 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
City of Rich	mond
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

James Monroe Tomb

8. Statement of Significance (1)

The cast iron temb was erected in 1859. It was designed by an Alsatian architect, Albert Lybrock, who had lived in Richmond since 1852. The tomb was cast by the firm of Wood and Perot of Philadelphia at a cost of \$1,682.

9	9. MAJGR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES											
	William B. O'Neal, Architecture in Virginia, (New York, 1968)											
(C_{ij}											
<i>(</i> -	Historic American Buildings Survey, (HABS, Library of Congress, 1969)											
	The state of the s											
	William M. E. Raschall, "President Monroe's Return to Virginia",											
	Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 3, No. I (Summer, 1953).											
10	10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA											
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•	in the National Register and certify that it has											
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